

What is claimed is:

1. A molded article made from a composition comprising:
at least one thermoplastic elastomer having at least one
elastomeric phase and at least one thermoplastic phase, wherein the at least one
5 thermoplastic phase consisting essentially of at least one propylene-based
polymer and the at least one elastomer phase comprises a styrenic copolymer
rubber phase or an at least partially crosslinked ethylene-propylene-diene rubber
phase; and
at least one nucleating agent for formation of nucleation sites for
10 crystal growth within the thermoplastic phase of the thermoplastic elastomer,
wherein the nucleating agent comprises sodium benzoate, a sorbitol derivative,
an organic phosphate ester salt, an acrylic acid-grafted polypropylene, a
nucleating talc, or combinations thereof, and
wherein the molded article has been molded from the
15 thermoplastic elastomer and the nucleating agent has enhanced the rate of
crystal formation in the thermoplastic phase of the thermoplastic elastomer
during cooling of the thermoplastic elastomer to achieve a solid crystal structure
for the molded article in a shorter time as compared to melt-processing of the
thermoplastic elastomer into the molded article without the nucleating agent.
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2. The molded article of claim 1, wherein the at least one nucleation
agent is dispersed within the at least one thermoplastic phase.
- 25 3. The molded article of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic
elastomer comprises at least two chemically distinct thermoplastic phases.
4. The molded article of claim 3,

wherein the thermoplastic phase comprises a continuous phase and the elastomer phase comprises a discontinuous phase dispersed in the continuous thermoplastic elastomer phase.

5 5. The molded article of claim 4, wherein the composition comprises about 0.005% to about 5% by weight nucleating agent based on total weight of the thermoplastic phase in the thermoplastic elastomer.

10 6. The molded article of claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises at least one thermoplastic phase of polypropylene; and wherein the thermoplastic elastomer comprises styrene-butadiene (SB) rubber, styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene (SEBS) rubber, styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEPS) rubber, styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) rubber, styrene-ethylene-ethylene-propylene-styrene (SEEPS) rubber, styrene propylene-styrene (SPS) 15 rubber, hydrogenated versions of the foregoing, or combinations thereof.

20 7. The molded article of claim 6, wherein the article has enhanced transparency as compared to an article formed from a composition without the nucleating agent.

 8. A method of using a nucleating agent to enhance rate of formation of a solid crystal structure in a thermoplastic elastomer being molded into an article, comprising the steps of:

25 adding a nucleating agent to a thermoplastic phase of a thermoplastic elastomer to form the thermoplastic elastomer composition referred to in any of claims 1-7;

 molding the thermoplastic elastomer composition into the article;

 permitting the thermoplastic elastomer composition in the article to cool, wherein the nucleating agent stimulates formation of a solid crystal structure

within the thermoplastic phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition more rapidly than if the nucleating agent were not present.